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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

HOEY, ALISSA L

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3765

DATE MAILED: 02/03/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/910,809

Applicant(s)

COCCIA, STEFANO

Examiner

Alissa L. Hoey

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 18-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 and 18-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 1-22 objected to because of the following informalities: It seems the term "crouch region" should appear "crotch region" in claims 1 and 21. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(e) the invention was described in-

(1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effect under this subsection of a national application published under section 122(b) only if the international application designating the United States was published under Article 21(2)(a) of such treaty in the English language; or
(2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that a patent shall not be deemed filed in the United States for the purposes of this subsection based on the filing of an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a).

2. Claims 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Garneau (US 6,393,618).

Garneau provides a protective element in a pair of cycling shorts (figure 6). The protective element comprising a double-stretch support of the cycling shorts with at which at least open double-stretch padding is connected and the double-stretch padding being arranged at a crotch region of the pair of shorts (column 1, lines 42-68 through column 2, lines 1-26). The double-stretch padding comprising a first central element which is arranged at a tangent to an imaginary curved line of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts (20). A second element arranged at a front of the crotch region of the pair of cycling shorts (22) and a third pair of elements formed at a rear of the crotch region of the shorts (26 and 24) with first flat regions interposed at transverse ends of the first central element (column 3, lines 12-15). The third elements are mirror-

symmetrical with respect to a central plane which is longitudinal to the double-stretch padding and are mutually divided by a second flat region which lies at the longitudinal central plane (figure 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 - 20 are rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Garneau (US 6,393,618).

Garneau provides a protective element as described above. The support is made out of double-stretch material that can elongate along multiple planes including mutually perpendicular ones (column 3, lines 34-45). The support is connected in the cycling shorts and the padding is applied only at points where resting on a saddle of a bicycle occurs and no padding is provided at any other areas. The padding is an open-cell high-density padding (column 2, lines 20-26) and has a first central element arranged at a tangent to an imaginary curved line of the crotch region of the cycling shorts (20). A second element is formed at a front of the crotch region (22) and a pair of third elements formed at a rear of the crotch region (24 and 26) with first flat regions interposed at transverse ends of the first central element (column 3, lines 12-15). The third elements are mirror-symmetrical with respect to a central plane which is longitudinal to the

double-stretch padding and are mutually divided by a second flat region which accordingly lies at the longitudinal central plane (see figure 2). The first flat regions, and therefore the dimensions of the first central element, the second element and the third elements are such that they are formed at a folding region of the double-stretch padding that is not affected at the first, second and third elements by any deformation during use (figures 2-6). However, Garneau fails to teach an absence of stitched seams at the double-stretch padding and the padding attached to the cycling shorts by high-frequency, thermoformation or ultrasound application methods. The elasticity of the support being 30-40%, the density of the padding being between 55 and 95 kg/m³ and having a thickness from 5 to 12 mm. The cycling shorts and the support being made out of the same material.

It would have been an obvious design choice to have provided the density and thickness of the padding material based upon the desired end use of the garment and size of the user, since one having ordinary skill in the art could determine the thickness and density of the padding needed to protect the user.

It would have been obvious to have attached the padded support to the short by any means including stitched seams, ultrasound, thermofomation or high frequency application methods, since all are equivalent securing means that can be interchanged as desired for end use.

It would have been further obvious to have provided the cycling shorts of Garneau being the same material as the support padding since, the support padding is

made out of a soft synthetic material and cycling shorts have been well known to be made out of soft synthetic materials.

Conclusion


5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Black, Bright and Garneau are all cited to show closely related bike support pads.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alissa L. Hoey whose telephone number is (703) 308-6094. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00-5:30) Second Friday Off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Calvert can be reached on (703) 305-1025. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-0758 for regular communications and (703) 308-0758 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0861.

alh
January 28, 2003


JOHN P. CALVERT
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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